the insurgents or the terrorists themselves that are doing this damage there.

These young men and women and those commanders know the success that is taking place in Iraq. They know that Saddam Hussein did not maintain their infrastructure there, that there was much deferred maintenance, that there was also deliberate destruction that was caused by sabotage and looters.

But USAID is hard at work in Iraq. They have a publication that they have done which talks about the improvements they are making to the infrastructure, the 2,500 schools countrywide that have been rehabbed, over 32,000 teachers and administrators that have been taught, $20.7 million in grants to create partnerships between U.S. and Iraqi universities, 200 USAID missionary personnel there at work, and over 80,000 Iraqis at work in sectors throughout the country.

These young men and women also understand the threat to the Nation. This shows our having dinner in Baghdad. This is in Qatar as we were leaving with the military men and women we met there.

But these young men and women and the commanders understand the threat to the world. We all know that Osama bin Laden made an edict in 1998, and he said, ''Anyone who believes in Allah is to find Americans and to kill them.''

What this map shows in green is their immediate goal. We have all heard and read Osama bin Laden's words and their mission to take over the entire world. None of us can believe that. This is their current goal. In the very bottom corner is their goal in 100 years, and when you see that in color and you see that their entire goal is not a little country in the Middle East, their goal is the entire world, it makes you understand that they are at war with civilization.

We as Americans, some of us think that Iraq is a local conflict. Iraq is the centerpiece of that puzzle, of that very much bigger plan of the people who would go after you and I if they had the opportunity.

It is difficult for us as Americans to understand that and to understand the threat. They have no tanks and they have no planes. They use our things. They use our planes. They use our subways. Their target is not the military; their target is us. It is only the military right now in Iraq.

Our military men and women know that there is no option but to fight this war and to win, not only for Iraq, but for us as well. And they know about the spread of freedom. They are the Freedom Believers. They know the spread of democracy in the Middle East makes this a safer world for all of us. What they want is for the American people to understand that, and I thank them for their service.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for arranging this tonight.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). The Chair must remind Members that remarks in debate should be addressed to the Chair and not to others in the second person, including persons who might be guests of the House.

TRIBUTE TO ROSA PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for letting me claim the time for my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who I trust will join us tonight.

Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues have gathered to honor an individual who was one of the legendary Americans of the last century. She was named by Time magazine as one of the 100 most significant people of that century. She was honored by President Clinton as a winner of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and she has been honored by numerous organizations all over this world and all over this country. Her name was Rosa Parks. She was, of course, an icon of the South, an icon of the country, and she was called home to her maker just last week.

She will have two memorial services. One we understand will be in Detroit, Michigan next Wednesday, one in Montgomery, Alabama, this coming Sunday. Two communities, Montgomery and Detroit, will do their best to make a statement on behalf of this extraordinary woman; and I thank the House for giving us this hour to speak to her role tonight.

I wanted to begin by hearkening, if I can, back to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1954. Montgomery, Alabama, happens to be the city where I was born in 1967, it happens to be the city where my mother was born, and my grandmother came to that city in 1931.

I still remember them telling me what it was like to sit at the back of the bus. As those who know history remember, that was not simply a Montgomery phenomenon; it was a Southern phenomenon. The practice of making black Americans sit in a certain place in the bus, the practice of making them yield their seat was carried on in a number of Southern cities; but I remember hearing the stories about Montgomery.

□ 2115

My mother and my grandmother never liked the stigma of segregation. They were not happy about it. But, like so many people their age and generation, they just took it as being part of the overlay over the land. They just took it as being part of the atmosphere of living in the South. And, like so many other people, they went on about their business, hoping for a better world, but not knowing when or if it would come.

And then all of a sudden this extraordinary woman named Rosa Parks, who was in her mid-40s at that time, decided that she would rise up and say ''no'' to this system of segregation. One day in late 1954, she resisted the order, she resisted the command to get up and to yield her seat. The world has never turned back from that moment. All of a sudden, people like my mother and grandmother were freed. But the interesting thing is that white Americans and white Montgomerians were freed as well, because all of a sudden, from that day forward, or maybe, more accurately, from the day that the moment succeeded and won concessions from the white power structure in Montgomery, we reached a point where people were free to sit together. That might seem like a quaint thing to those of us in 2005, but the sitting together led to talking together, led to reasoning together, and led to people accommodating each other. It led to people one day getting to the point that they could understand and build one solid and one stable community. That was the legacy of Rosa Parks.

As a number of my colleagues will point out tonight, we would do well if we understood exactly why segregation thrived for so long and what it was meant to do. It was never just meant to be a symbol. It was never just meant to be a code of laws; it was meant to be a stigma. It was meant to say to a certain group of people, you are not like the rest of us. You are not like us. You are different. You are worse than we are. It was meant to confer a badge of inferiority. And I think that the hope of segregationists, the hope of the supremacists was that these people who were being stigmatized might slowly but surely lose their confidence and slowly but surely buy into all the myths and all the hatred about them. That is why segregation thrived for so long.

Well, when Rosa Parks stood up by sitting down, when Rosa Parks refused to move, it was a triumph of the human spirit. It was a triumph of all people who yearn for some measure of freedom and dignity in their lives.

I hearken back to the last conversation, Mr. Speaker, the Special Order that happened before this. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle talked about the adventure in Iraq right now and talked about the dawning of freedom in that territory. I am reminded how recent is that experience in this country. As we go around the world speaking on behalf of freedom, I am reminded tonight of how fresh and how recent is that experience here.

I think we ought to speak to another woman: Vivian Malone Jones. Vivian Malone Jones was another trailblazer like Rosa Parks. At the age of 20, she was the first African American to attend the University of Alabama and to stay there, and, at the age of 23, she

was the first African American to graduate. It so happens the incredible irony of history that she died last week at the young age of 63.

I remember going on campus at the University of Alabama just last week to speak at a memorial service for her and to see students, black and white, people from the power structure of Tuscaloosa, people from all over Tuscaloosa gathering together to honor her sacrifice. I am reminded, Mr. Speaker, of a cover of Newsweek Magazine in 1963. It showed Vivian Malone Jones, who was a very beautiful young woman, it showed her standing there on the campus, and beneath her image was the anonymous quote: ''We owe them and we owe ourselves a better country.''

Mr. Speaker, I would submit that the Vivian Malone Joneses and the Rosa Parkses, what made them such icons, what makes them icons to us now, is the fact that they challenged us. They made us believe that we owed them a better country, and they also made us believe that we owed ourselves a better country.

One of the last points that I will make tonight is that there ought to be a challenge in this for us, because not only do we owe their successors a better country, we owe the people who are wounded in America, who are coming back from Iraq, a better country. We owe the people who are working every single day, striving to earn a living and falling just short of the water's edge, we owe them a better country. We owe the children who are sliding into poverty in this country a better country and a better vision. That is what we have to understand.

This legacy of civil rights, this history of individuals rising above oppression and segregation is a long-running theme in human history. The story of people standing up against oppressive systems and asserting their dignity is a long-running theme in human history. It is a theme of courage, and it is a uniquely American theme.

So as I prepare to yield to some of my colleagues tonight, I will simply make these two final points. I am very proud to be from Montgomery, Alabama, very proud to be a son of this modern South, because every day that we build bridges of reconciliation, we pay our own tribute to Rosa Parks. Every day that we find a way to exist across racial lines, every day that we find a way to transcend new boundaries, every day that we find a way to make better the lives of all the people who live in our community, we pay a silent tribute to Rosa Parks and to Vivian Malone Jones, and we ought to remember that.

The final point that I will make is simply, once again, to talk about the power of individual choice. I heard one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the enormous courage of our soldiers in Iraq, and it is such a thing that inspires us, their courage. Well, there is a common theme between what they do and what Rosa Parks did. It is believing that there is a higher cause that can sustain you, just as our soldiers believe when they get up every morning and face the bunkers and the missiles and the grenades, they believe that there is a higher cause that can sustain them. So did Rosa Parks. When she sat on that bus, she believed that there was something beyond her mortal existence, and that moved her.

The last thing I say today is that our country can be moved if we simply understand the power of individuals asserting their dignity, if we put enough of a foundation beneath them so that they can live their destinies.

With that said, I am very happy to turn over the management of this Special Order to my colleague, John Conyers from Michigan, who employed Rosa Parks for a number of years, someone who was a friend of hers, and someone who has been an advocate for many years now, almost 40 years now, in this Chamber for so many progressive causes.

REMEMBERING ROSA PARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTMORELAND). Under the Speaker's announced policy, and on the designation of the Minority Leader, the balance of the hour will be controlled by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS) whose district I had the pleasure of being in, and with him, only a few days ago.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad moment for me. The truth of the matter is that we have known that Mrs. Rosa Louise Parks had been in poor health; that frequently we would ask, how is she doing this week? Is she any better? How are things going? And now that this moment has come 2 days ago, we still cannot accept this reality of this dear, powerful, gentle lady going to her reward after 92 years of being with us on this Earth.

She has been regarded as an ordinary person, as an example of what an ordinary person can do in our system. But I am not convinced that she is an ordinary person, because I have seen her at very close range. The fact of the matter is I believe she is an extremely extraordinary person because of these two qualities. First of all, she was a gentle lady. She was soft-spoken. She had never in the years I have known her ever raised her voice in anger. She did not debate anyone. She was a very mild-mannered person. She never sought the limelight. She never, ever issued a press release. She never sought awards or commendations. Yet she received more than most people do in this world that we live in.

So that was this one aspect of her, but there was another. There was inside her forged a set of principles of which two were very prominent in terms of my analysis here this evening. One, she was a very religious woman. She attended church with great regularity, but, more than that, she worked in the church. She helped out. She was there during the week. And combined with her religious convictions was this fierce antipathy to segregation. And I do not know how many people we can think of that combine these two kinds of characteristics, soft spoken and humble, and yet fiercely prepared, in a nonviolent way, to fight segregation.

So she came to this activity not as something that she just happened to get into or that she moved one day, she did something different; she had always been an activist in Alabama. She was a member of the NAACP, she was always the first to sign the membership card, and it is hard to remember that this could be the case, but in the 1940s, being a member of the NAACP in the South, and publicly acknowledging it, was a very daring and courageous move in and of itself.

She subscribed to the theory of nonviolence. So when, on December 1, 1955, she decided that she would not give up her seat on a public bus in Montgomery, Alabama, some thought that was the first time that she had ever done it. But to the contrary, previously she had refused to give up her seat, but she was ordered off the bus. She had never been arrested. And so this time they told her, you will be arrested, you are going to be arrested.

□ 2130

And she said, I am not giving up my seat. You can do whatever you want. And so we marched into this great history.

Now, I wanted to point out that she was the one that brought Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., into the civil rights movement. Martin Luther King, Jr., was at that time 26 years old, and he was called in to come after she had been arrested; and it was decided that everyone was going to boycott the buses as a result.

And so it is ironic that she had this role in addition to restarting the civil rights movement in America. She brought in the person who would ultimately lead it at the same time.

I am sure Dr. King may not have been thinking about his future and his destiny, and I am sure that Mrs. Parks could not anticipate what this one move was going to mean. And so I am very happy to tell you that I had the opportunity to meet her, to know her before she came to Detroit, and what a blessing it was to find out that she ultimately with her husband left Montgomery.